

REPORT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE, 1917

The effect of the war seems on the whole to be adverse to the work of the Union, English-speaking Churches on the Mission Field and yet it brings its well-known compensations there as well as in church life in America. Several churches report the return home of many men to take part in the war, that the increased cost of living makes the pastor's salary inadequate and that the constituency finds difficulty in increasing its financial support. Three churches in the capitals (Peking, Tokyo and Rio de Janeiro) of three great nations stress emphatically the urgent necessity of buildings of their own if they are to meet the need and opportunity. The general tone of the field reports is encouraging and optimistic: however one pastor struck a common note in saying: "Nevertheless the church attendance forms a deplorably small percentage of the foreign and professedly Christian population of the community." Last year your Committee assisted or had other direct relation with the following Union Churches:

MANILA, REV. BRUCE S. WRIGHT *Pastor*. The city has an English-speaking population of 4,000, of whom 3,000 are Americans. The Union Church has 345 members; 53 were added during the year. The average attendance mornings is over 200, evenings is over 100, and at Sunday-school is 170. The Women's Auxiliary, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and large Adult Bible Class are active organizations. The Budget of \$6,000, including benevolences, was secured through an every-member canvass by eighteen teams. "The Endowment Fund Society" bought a \$500 Liberty Bond for the Church Endowment Fund. In three years, the Church has had identified with its work members of twenty-two denominations and of sixteen white races. The pastor's three-year term of eminently useful service expires in April, 1918, and the Committee is asked to nominate a successor.

HANKOW, REV. ARNOLD FOSTER, *Pastor*. The Union Church here is vigorous and self-supporting. It has asked the Committee to assist with the building fund: the Committee has been able to secure \$500 for this purpose during the year and may be able to raise a like amount next year if Hankow still needs this assistance.

PEKING, REV. CHARLES F. HUBBARD, D.D., served the

Church helpfully for a term of three years and a half and recently returned to America. Although the pulpit being well supplied, a new pastor should go as soon as possible, Dr. Hubbard's full, interesting field report contains the following: "The outstanding feature of this work is the diversity of the social, national, and denominational elements. The opportunity for reaching the English-speaking educated Chinese and Japanese is important and hopeful. Among Catholics, both of the Roman and the Greek churches, we find too occasional opportunity of helpful ministry. During this past year there have been added to the population more than a hundred souls through new American enterprises. After the great war is over there may be expected a considerable influx of foreigners. The Union Church needs a 'local habitation' of its own, a new church building, with associated parish house for Sunday-school, prayer-meeting, and social gatherings, and with library and reading-room and young men's club facilities. All the great nationalities of the world are included in our fellowship, and from twenty-five to thirty different denominations; a genuine unity of spirit is secured by emphasizing the great common essentials of Christian faith."

YOKOHAMA, REV. WILLIAM MARTIN, M.A., *Pastor*. The English-speaking population of 2,250 includes 400 Americans and 1,100 British. The Church has 103 members, of whom 14 were added during the year. The average attendance at morning service is 100, 65 in the evening, and 105 at Sunday-school. The Pastor's Aid Committee calls on newcomers, and tourists are invited through the hotels. The work has been well maintained during the year in spite of rather severe losses through the war, removals and deaths.

KOBE, REV. WILLIS E. PARSONS, D.D., is serving as pastor for a short term succeeding the Rev. Stanley F. Gutelius who returned to America last spring. The membership is 54, nine being added during the year. The morning attendance averages from 80 to 90, with about half that number at night. The Sunday-school has six classes with 60 in attendance. The Church serves many tourists en route to other ports. A new, permanent pastor will probably be needed next fall.

TOKYO, REV. DOREMUS SCUDDER, D.D., has served most successfully his first year as pastor of this new organization. Two hundred and seventeen members have been received. The average attendance at church is over 150 and about 70 at Sunday-school. The School and Women's Society help in the support of local charities. Services are held in the Ginza Metho-

dist Church (Japanese); the usefulness of the Church would be greatly increased by a plant of its own, toward which more than \$8,000 has already been raised. The Church appeals to friends for \$35,000 for site and building.

MEXICO CITY, REV. GEORGE C. LENINGTON, formerly pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church in Tompkinsville, Staten Island, N. Y., entered this pastorate last February. Through an extremely difficult year, the Church has faithfully served the Kingdom in that distracted capital. The English-speaking population now numbers about 1,800, of whom over 1,000 are Americans. The Church membership is 96, 30 being added this year; 25 of the total are missionaries. The average attendance at church is 55, and at Sunday-school is 76, with two adult Bible classes. There have been practically no tourists in Mexico during the year. New features are mid-week meeting for Bible study and prayer, a Sunday evening service, and a Communion Class for young people.

PANAMA CANAL ZONE. The Union Church is a collegiate organization with congregations at several points. BALBOA HEIGHTS reports a year of progress with the REV. SIDNEY S. CONGER as *Pastor*. Of the 5,000 English-speaking residents, 225 are members of the Church, 61 being added last year. The morning and evening attendances average 175 and 80 respectively, and Sunday-school 300 with 100 in the Sunday-school at Ancon. An active Christian Endeavor Society, a Teachers' Training Class and prayer meeting at both Balboa and Ancon are helpful features. A first-class ground floor of what is planned to be a large, well-equipped plant has just been completed by a building fund of \$30,000, two-thirds of which the pastor solicited in the States last winter. Mission work is done among the Chinese and other races on the Zone and financial aid is sent abroad. At CHRISTOBAL, REV. JOHN C. ABELS, *Pastor*, 81 have united with the Church in the past fifteen months, but the many losses leave the membership only 100. As Deaconess of the Church and as principal of the Chinese Day School, Miss Lucy Bittinger, formerly of India, is serving. The Chinese on the Zone have no religion and it is hoped that the day school and Sunday-school for them may make the next generation Christian. GATUN is the headquarters of the REV. RAYMOND E. MARSHALL, who went there after graduation at Drew Seminary last spring. The REV. GEORGE A. MILLER of the Methodist Mission in Panama gives part time to the work of the Union Church. The low ebb of religious life makes fishing for men difficult and discouraging, but the workers are not disheartened.

RIO DE JANEIRO, REV. ISAAC B. HARPER, formerly pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Terre Haute, Indiana, reached the field last April and has been leading the congregation forward in a very commendable way. Of the 3,000 English-speaking people in Rio, only 500 are American, the rest being British. The Church has 130 members, of whom 37 were added during eight months of last year. The average morning attendance is 50; occasionally there is a second service on Sunday. The Ladies' Guild is a recent and active organization, the work of which included a circulating library. Special effort is made by the pastor and the Guild to secure the interest and co-operation of new arrivals. The monthly church paper, "The Community Outlook," is very popular and helpful. The congregation worships in the Brazilian Methodist Church and is greatly in need of a building of its own.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO. The Presbyterian and Methodist congregations are now holding joint services; a Union Church is proposed. Our Committee, at their request, nominated as pastor a competent Methodist to whom a call was extended; circumstances arose which led the nominee to decline and the congregation has now called another pastor. The combined membership of the two churches is about 100, with a constituency of about four times as many among an English-speaking population of from 1,500 to 2,000.

HAVANA, a year ago, seemed ready for a happy co-ordination of its three congregations into a Union Church and a local committee was formed to this end. Various circumstances, however, have made the step inexpedient, but we trust it will not be too long delayed as there seems to be a growing need for a strong, united leadership for the foreign colony in that increasingly important city.

SANTIAGO, CHILE, REV. W. H. LESTER, D.D., *Pastor*. The Committee has been asked informally if it might be able to assist this Church if occasion arose, and we replied that the Committee stood ready to try to help in any appropriate way. The membership of the Union Church is about sixty, and the average attendance between 100 and 125. The Church owns a good, centrally located building with an attractive club room.

For the recurrent vacancies in these important pastorates abroad, your Committee will warmly welcome suggestions of suitable, available men.

TOURIST DIRECTORIES. The edition of the Latin American Guide is exhausted but should probably not be re-

printed at present. The Asia Directory continues to be supplied to tourist steamers and centers abroad.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

JANUARY 1—DECEMBER 31, 1917

Receipts

Balance brought over from 1916	\$ 919 69
Insurance on Tourist Guides lost at sea.....	53 00
Through the American Board	300 00
" " Canadian Baptist Board	50 00
" " General Synod Lutheran Board	50 00
" " Northern Baptist Board	550 00
" " Foreign Christian Missionary Society.....	200 00
" " Christian Woman's Board	50 00
" " Canadian Methodist Board	250 00
" " Methodist Board	500 00
" " Southern Methodist Board	200 00
" " Canadian Presbyterian Board	350 00
" " Northern Presbyterian Board	1,375 00
" " Southern Presbyterian Board	400 00
" " United Presbyterian Board	50 00
" " Reformed Board of America	290 00
" " Reformed Board in U. S.	200 00
" " United Brethren Board	100 00
" " World's Sunday School Association.....	100 00
" " Young Men's Christian Association	550 00
" " Young Women's Christian Association.....	25 00
" " Committee (Special for 1917).....	1,850 00
 Total receipts	 \$ 8,412 69

Expenditures

Peking Union Church	\$ 750 00
Hankow Union Church	500 00
Kobe Union Church	1,000 00
Yokohama Union Church	1,000 00
Tokyo Union Church	1,000 00
Mexico City Union Church	1,100 00
Rio de Janeiro Union Church	750 00
Transportation of Pastors to and from the Field.....	2,114 28
Cablegrams and Telegrams	43 02
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	\$ 8,257 30
Balance on hand December 31, 1917.....	\$ 155 39

Budget Proposed for 1918

Peking Union Church	\$ 1,000 00
Kobe Union Church	1,000 00
Yokohama Union Church	1,000 00
Tokyo Union Church	1,000 00
Mexico City Union Church	1,200 00
Rio de Janeiro Union Church	1,000 00
Hankow Union Church	500 00
Transportation of two pastors	1,800 00
Cablegrams	40 00
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	\$ 8,540 00

The Committee is deeply grateful to the six Boards that increased their contributions in 1917 and earnestly hopes that the other Boards will do the same this year, thus relieving their Committee of much of the enlarged financial burden of this growing work.

The terms of service of two members of the Committee, Dr. Chester and Mr. Horne, expire with this conference.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN BAKER,

R. P. MACKAY,

ALFRED E. MARLING,

FRANK A. HORNE,

S. H. CHESTER,

ROBERT E. SPEER, *Chairman.*



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